

# Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

June 2012 – ISSUE 57

*Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.*

*Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.*

*Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.*



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## SCHEDULES

[Regional Planners Forums](#)  
[Short Course Schedule](#)

## QUICK LINKS

[www.commerce.wa.gov/growth](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth)  
[www.washington-apa.org](http://www.washington-apa.org)  
[www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)  
[www.planningpaw.org](http://www.planningpaw.org)  
[www.mrsc.org](http://www.mrsc.org)

## 1. Commerce Now Accepting Applications for Competitive Planning Grants 2012 – 2013

About \$345,000 is available for the GMA Competitive Planning Grants for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. These grants will be awarded through a competitive application process counties or cities planning under RCW 36.70A.040 to help them provide for development and quality of life in Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) using innovative approaches to implement or enhance the Capital Facilities Elements of their comprehensive plans. Applicants must meet certain criteria and must be in compliance with the GMA at the time of award.

Detailed information including grant applications are available to be downloaded at the following link: [GMA Competitive Planning Grants instructions and application](#), or prospective applicants may request an application by contacting the Grants Coordinator, Paul Johnson, by phone at 360.725.3048. Application deadline is Friday July 27, 2012.

If you have questions or need additional information about this competitive grant announcement, please contact Ike Nwankwo by phone at 360.725.3056 or email [ike.nwankwo@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:ike.nwankwo@commerce.wa.gov).

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## **2. 2012 Governor's Smart Communities Awards**

Gov. Chris Gregoire announced the winners of her 2012 Smart Communities Awards. Now in its 7th year, the program recognizes achievements by local leaders to promote "smart growth" planning and projects that contribute to our quality of life in Washington State.

"The work of local governments and their partners in creating vibrant, quality communities is vital to our continued economic recovery," said Gov. Gregoire. "The leadership of these award winners helps to make Washington a great state in which to live and do business."

Smart Communities Award winners are:

- Skagit County for its Envision Skagit 2060 plan, which engaged county residents in planning for the long-term future of the county;
- City of Sequim for its downtown plan;
- City of Redmond for the Tudor Manor housing project and the city's long-term capital investment strategy, which maps out the city's major construction projects for the next 18 years; and
- City of Renton for its city center community plan and its 20-year parks plan.

The judges also selected three projects for merit awards:

- City of Ellensburg for its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy;
- City of Shoreline for its town center plan, and
- Snohomish County Tomorrow for a collaboration of the County, its nineteen cities and the Tulalip Tribes on county-wide policies to guide future planning and development.

The Governor's Smart Communities Awards to cities will be presented June 21 at the Association of Washington Cities annual conference in Vancouver. County winners will receive awards at the Washington State Association of Counties annual meeting in Wenatchee on November 14.

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## **3. Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant Opportunity**

Wells Fargo and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have announced "Environmental Solutions for Communities", a new grant program to help communities in the United States create a more sustainable future through responsible environmental stewardship. The program seeks to support projects that link economic development and community well-being to the stewardship and health of the environment. Collectively, investments under this initiative will promote a sustainable future for communities by supporting sustainable

agricultural practices and private lands stewardship; conserving critical land and water resources and improving local water quality; restoring and managing natural habitat, species, and ecosystems that are important to community livelihoods; facilitating investments in green infrastructure, renewable energy and energy efficiency; and encouraging broad-based citizen participation in project implementation.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit 501© organizations; state, tribal, provincial, and local governments; and educational institutions working in states and communities where Wells Fargo operates. Individuals, federal agencies, and private for-profit firms are not eligible. Projects that seek funding for political advocacy, lobbying, litigation, fundraising, or legally mandated mitigation projects are not eligible.

Grant awards typically range from \$25,000 to \$250,000. The ratio of matching funds offered is one criterion considered during the review process, and projects that meet or exceed a 1:1 match ratio will tend to be more competitive.

For more information, visit the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) Grants Program Web page.

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#### **4. Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation Webinar Series**

Natural Resource professionals, land use planners, private landowners and others will hear from experts about the issues facing our forestlands – both public and private – and learn about opportunities and strategies to conserve open space through a series of monthly webinars. All are welcome to participate!

##### **Future topics to include:**

- Forest Service land acquisition and conservation easement programs
- The efforts of other agencies to conserve open space
- Local land trusts as essential conservation partners and the tools they provide
- Federal programs for private land conservation and stewardships
- Facilitating large landscape conservation efforts
- Science to inform open space conservation...and more!

Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/webinars.html> for more information and to register for webcasts.

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